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To: Senate Education Committee

Testimony in support of SB602 removing sunset relating to summative assessments

Submitted by Oregon PTA April 7, 2021

Senator Dembrow, Vice Chair Thomsen and members of the committee:

On behalf of the Oregon PTA we urge you vote yes on SB602, which removes sunset on requirement that students must receive certain information related to statewide summative assessments.

Oregon PTA is a volunteer run organization and our mission is to help all children reach their full potential. We have been in the classrooms and schools of Oregon for over 100 years and during that time we have seen the use of testing change dramatically. Our PTA volunteers have seen the strengths and weakness of summative testing on our children.

Oregon PTA believes involved parents, guardians and other caring adults are critical for our children's education and well being. We know that those parents, guardians and caring adults can work with professional educators to choose what is best for their students.

SB602 preserves the ability of parents and guardians to choose if and when a child is tested. The law passed in 2015 (HB2655) resulted in creating a clear pathway for parents and guardians with a statement of how and when testing is to occur. The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) created an easy to understand form available in all schools explaining testing and how to be excused. SB602 continues the explanation of testing and allows students to be excused from testing.

Parents are concerned that there is current pressure to test even in a covid impacted school year. We appreciate the work that the ODE and other Oregon leaders have done to delay any testing with a federal waiver. We recognize that testing now in a brief return to school would yield limited useful information and could get in the way of bringing students back into our schools.

SB602 assures that parents, guardians and students have an easy to understand way to excuse a student from taking a summative test. Working with our educators and school staff Oregonians will have the option to not test protected. The ODE notice of testing form is informative and provides the option to excuse a student from testing and explains the testing process.

Please Vote YES on SB602 and preserve the informed consent process for testing.

Otto Schell, Oregon PTA legislative director



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